

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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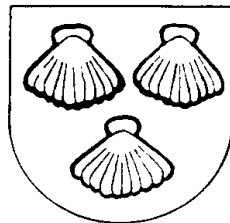
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## December 24, 2020 – “We Believe, Even Now” Christmas Eve

### ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj  
Interim Director of Music: Ryan Ferguson | Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James**  
**United Methodist Church**  
Marriottsville, MD

# WE GATHER

**Welcome and Prepare**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Prelude**

**“Carol of the Bells”**

**Handbell Choir**

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**Crossing the Threshold**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Special Music**

**“I Believe” (by Mark A. Miller)**

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Mark A. Miller  
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**Opening Prayer**

**Holy One,  
we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth  
In the faces and the light of those around us.  
Even in the midst of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when our view is obscured  
by clouds of doubt,  
You have ignited the flame of hope, love, joy and peace within us.  
Let us glow with its brilliance  
From the inside out.  
Amen.**



**Verse 1**

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
 Let earth receive her King  
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
 And heav'n and nature sing  
 And heav'n and nature sing  
 And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

**Verse 3**

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
 Nor thorns infest the ground  
 He comes to make His blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found  
 Far as the curse is found  
 Far as far as the curse is found

**Verse 2**

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
 Let men their songs employ  
 While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat the sounding joy  
 Repeat repeat the sounding joy

**Verse 4**

He rules the world with truth and grace  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of His righteousness  
 And wonders of His love  
 And wonders of His love  
 And wonders wonders of His love

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**WE PROCLAIM****Children's Time to Shine**

"This Little Light of Mine"

***Jelinda Blum and Donna Benson***

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**Scripture****Isaiah 52: 7-10 (CEB)*****Josh Michael***

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
 are the feet of a messenger  
 who proclaims peace,  
 who brings good news,  
 who proclaims salvation,  
 who says to Zion, "Your God rules!"

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your lookouts lift their voice;  
 they sing out together!

Right before their eyes they see the LORD returning to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break into song together, you ruins of Jerusalem!  
 The LORD has comforted his people and has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm in view of all the nations;  
 all the ends of the earth have seen our God's victory.

**Special Music/Anthem**

“O Holy Night”

*John Humphreys, soloist*

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**Scripture****Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)***Mary Anne Espenshade*

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

**Hymn**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**UMH 230****Verse 1**

O little town of Bethlehem  
 How still we see thee lie  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
 The silent stars go by  
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
 The everlasting Light  
 The hopes and fears of all the years  
 Are met in thee tonight

**Verse 4**

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
 Descend to us we pray  
 Cast out our sin and enter in  
 Be born to us today  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 The great glad tidings tell  
 O come to us abide with us  
 Our Lord Emmanuel

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**Scripture****Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)***Donna Benson*

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

**Special Music**

“Make Room”

**Scripture****Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)***Josh Michael*

<sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

**Hymn**

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

**UMH 240**

**Verse 1**

Hark the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King

Peace on earth and mercy mild  
 God and sinners reconciled  
 Joyful all ye nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
 Christ is born in Bethlehem  
 Hark the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King

**Verse 3**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness

Light and life to all He brings  
 Ris'n with healing in His wings  
 Mild He lays His glory by  
 Born that man no more may die  
 Born to raise the sons of earth  
 Born to give them second birth  
 Hark the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King

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**Scripture****Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)*****Jelinda Blum***

<sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” <sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

**Special Music**

“Canon de Noel”

**Scripture****Luke 2: 1-20 (CEB)*****Eddie Candee***

<sup>19</sup> Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

**Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**UMH 234****Verse 1**

O come all ye faithful  
 Joyful and triumphant  
 O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
 Come and behold Him  
 Born the King of angels  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 Christ the Lord

**Verse 3**

Sing choirs of angels  
 Sing in exultation  
 O sing all ye citizens of heaven above  
 Glory to God all  
 Glory in the highest  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 Christ the Lord

## Verse 6

Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

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**Message**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

## WE RESPOND



### Prayers for God's People, the Church and the World

Share your prayer requests at [pastor.saintjames@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.saintjames@verizon.net) or [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net)

### The Lord's Prayer

### Offering/Mission Moment

### Doxology

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (chorus only)

**UMH 206**

### Chorus

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo

## WE GO FORTH

**Carol of Resistance**

“Silent Night”

**UMH 239**

### Verse 1

Silent night holy night  
All is calm all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

### Verse 2

Silent night holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

### Verse 3

Silent night holy night  
Son of God love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

### Verse 4

Silent night holy night  
Wondrous star lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

**Benediction**

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

We wait for justice  
but we do not wait to work for change;

We wait for restored health  
but we do not wait to work to heal;

We wait for wholeness  
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;

We wait for peace  
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
That Christ is born among us,  
Fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope, love, joy, and peace.  
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that light alive in you

And that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...  
“do not be afraid!”  
**“do not be afraid!”**  
**Amen!**

## Handbell Benediction

## Postlude

“Meditation on ‘Joy to the World’”

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